

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of keeping a refreshed image from a camera on a user's
2 system, the method comprising:
3 sending the image to the user's system;
4 refreshing the image periodically; and
5 after a period of time, degrading the image.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the degrading comprises reducing
2 an image size.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the degrading comprises
2 decreasing resolution.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining if it is time to degrade the image; and
3 if it is time to degrade the image, degrading the image.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining if it is time to degrade
2 the image comprises determining that a set time has elapsed.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein determining if it is time to degrade
2 the image comprises determining that a window displaying the image is not
3 visible to the user.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the determination whether to
2 degrade the image is periodically evaluated.

2 determination whether to degrade the image is greater than a refresh period of
3 the image.

3 the image.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the determination whether to
2 degrade the image occurs concurrently with a refresh cycle.

2 degrade the image occurs concurrently with a refresh cycle.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein if the determination indicates that
2 the image should be degraded, upon refresh, the degraded image is loaded.

2 the image should be degraded, upon refresh, the degraded image is loaded.

1 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the determination whether to
2 degrade the image is made when a timer reaches a preset value.

2 degrade the image is made when a timer reaches a preset value.

1 12. The method of claim 7, wherein a determination whether it is time
2 to degrade the image is made when a counter reaches a preset value.

2 to degrade the image is made when a counter reaches a preset value.

1 13. An apparatus comprising:
2 a network connection to send an image to a user's system;
3 a refresh logic to periodically refresh the image; and
4 a degrading logic to degrade the image after a period of time.

2 a network connection to send an image to a user's system;

3 a refresh logic to periodically refresh the image; and

4 a degrading logic to degrade the image after a period of time.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the degrading comprises
2 reducing an image size.

2 reducing an image size.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the degrading comprises
2 decreasing resolution.

2 decreasing resolution.

- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
2 an activity monitor to determine if it is time to degrade the image; and
3 if it is time to degrade the image, the refresh rate logic to degrade the
4 image.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the degrading logic determines
2 if it is time to degrade the image by determining whether a set time has elapsed.
- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the activity monitor determines
2 if it is time to degrade the image by determining whether a window displaying
3 the image is visible to the user.
- 1 19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein if the degrading logic
2 determines that the image should be degraded, upon refresh, the refresh logic
3 loads a degraded image.
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a quality increase
2 request monitor to reset the image to its original refresh rate upon detecting a
3 request.
- 1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the request is made by the user.